Hidden Tape Tells His Story

By HENRY MACHIRELLA NY DAILY NEWS 1/4/67

News Staff Correspondent, who was on the scene when Ruby shot Oswald

Within hours after his death yesterday, Jack Ruby's voice—recorded secretly in the same Dallas hospital room where he died—was heard denying any complicity between himself and President Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

The recording, arranged by Capitol Records as part of an album called "The Controversy," is purportedly the only one made of Ruby's own story. It was played for the press yesterday at 2 P.M. in the Americana Hotel here. Ruby died at 11:30 A.M. at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Again breaching Dallas police security, the tape was made with a recorder hidden in an attache case, while one unwitting policeman was in Ruby's room and two were standing outside the door.

How He Got Into HQ

Ruby's account of how he got into the basement of Dallas Police Headquarters begins with his mention of going to a nearby Western Union office. (It was learned at the time, Nov. 24, 1963—two days after the Kennedy assassination—that he went there to send some money to a girl who formerly worked in his night club.)

He also explains that if he hadn't made a wrong turn behind a bus he would have missed Oswald by a matter of seconds. He then parked in a lot directly across the street from police headquarters.

Ruby, on his way from the Western Union office on the same block as headquarters, tells of seeing a police car at the head of the ramp and an officer leaning over talking to the driver.

Just Walked Down

Ruby said: "So I walked towards the ramp. I noticed the police car. All I did is walk down there, down to the bottom of the ramp and that's when the incident happened. At the bottom of the ramp."

Q. Did you recognize anyone beyond when you reached the bottom of the ramp? A. No, but I recognized the police officer in the car. That was in the car. He was Lt. Sam Pierce. And this other man was just talking to him.

Q. When did you finally realize that something had happened? A. Well, it happened in such a blur that, before I knew it I was down on the ground. The officers had me on the ground.

Q. Did you realize you had done anything? A. Well, really it happened so fast and everything else, I can't recall what happened from the time I came to the bottom of the ramp until the police officers had me on the ground.

Revelation by Ruby

These facts leading to the killing of Oswald were never before heard from Ruby himself, since he did not testify at his Dallas trial where he was sentenced to death.

(I was within 15 feet of Ruby when he darted out of a crowd of newsmen and pumped a fatal shot into Oswald's stomach. Seconds later I was pushed forward and nearly stumbled over a tumbling fedora initiated with J. R. on the inner hatband.

(I have always believed Ruby's entrance to the basement was made the way he tells it. Except for the police car and its driver he said was at the head of the ramp on Main St and the other officer, the crowd of onlook-

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(UPI Telefoto)

Producer Lawrence Schiller holds record and stands at tape machine during press conference at the Americana Hotel.

Ruby Tells Story on Hidden Tape

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lookers and major security forces were a block away at the Commerce St. entrance.)

Time of the Recording

The record was alleged to have been made between Dec. 15 and 18 with the knowledge of Ruby's family and their attorney, Elmer Gertz. Captol Records also claims that certain members of the Warren Commission were aware of the plan to make the record.

The ruse to get the tape recorder into Ruby's hospital room was made with his knowledge. Carried in by his brother, Earl, the attache case containing the recorder was placed on an air conditioner near Ruby's bed.

Earl then told Ruby in Yiddish: "Jack, in the briefcase, the tape recorder is hidden here. Talk into it."

Interviewer Not Identified

The interviewer was never identified, but in the room were his brother and his attorney.

When asked if he always carried a gun, Ruby said:

"Yes I did. I always carried a gun because of altercations I had in my club. And I carried pretty large sums of money at times. The ironic part of this is that if I hadn't made an illegal turn behind a bus to the parking lot, had I gone the way I was supposed to go — straight down Main St.—I'd of never, I would never have met this fate. Because the difference in meeting this fate was 30 seconds. One way or the other."

Capitol Records says another person who was heard on the recorded album, in addition to Gov. John Connally of Texas and members of the Dallas police force, was an eyewitness to the assassination who never appeared before the Warren Commission.

She is Mrs. Corolyn Walther, a housewife.

She tells of seeing a man with a gun in a kneeling position with his arms resting on a window sill and another man standing beside him.

Mrs. Walther continued: "And I heard one shot, and I thought at the time the first shot was a firecracker, and after the last car passed . . . and two more shots, and then seconds later, one more."

It is known that many such stories from so-called eyewitnesses were told to the FBI, but for some reason they were later discounted and the persons never testified further.